

The Southwest Clean Air Agency Announces \$112,500 Civil Penalty for Air Pollution Violations Against LANXESS Corporation (Formerly Emerald Kalama Chemical LLC)

November 20th, 2023

Vancouver WA – On November 16th, 2023, the Southwest Clean Air Agency (SWCAA) issued civil penalties in the amount of \$112,500 to LANXESS for exceeding permitted emission limits for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) at their Benzoate Plant in Kalama, Washington. The facility exceeded the emission limits from 2018-2021. The facility had initially underreported their emissions, but after a review by SWCAA it was determined there was an error in the emissions calculations. On September 21st, 2022, the facility submitted a revised compliance certification indicating a four-year period of emission exceedances. Since discovering the violation, the facility has reduced emissions to within permitted levels.

LANXESS is a synthetic organic chemical manufacturer of specialty and fine chemicals with 73 emission units. The products manufactured serve a range of industries including wood products, flavor, fragrance, food, beverage, paint, pharmaceutical, and photographic industries. Final products are shipped in railcars, tank trucks, drums, and dry bags.

Toluene, benzoic acid, and benzaldehyde are the primary raw materials used at the facility, with the latter produced by the oxidation of toluene. Most of the chemicals produced on-site are derived from one of these three compounds. A variety of physical and chemical processes are used to produce the final products. Reactants are combined in reactor vessels or tanks, allowed to react, and then distilled in a continuous or batch distillation columns. Emissions from the reactors, tanks, and columns are controlled using several different pollution control technologies, including scrubbers, chilled water coolers, carbon adsorption, and regenerative thermal oxidation.

“SWCAA is committed to ensuring companies operate in compliance with air emission standards.” said Uri Papish, Executive Director of the Southwest Clean Air Agency.

The facility had a permit limit of 13 tons/year VOC for the affected emission units. These emission units are estimated to have had the following emissions over the four-year violation period:

Year	Emissions (tons/year)
2018	15.41
2019	17.41
2020	20.93
2021	47.09

Contact Information

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